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Comparative Anatomy being a notable exception. This palæontology will consist of two volumes, and will, when completed, be a valuable work of reference, though almost entirely based on European forms.

MISS BALLARD'S INSECT LIVES.<sup>1</sup>—This attractive little book deserves commendation from the fact that the authoress has evidently the zeal of a genuine naturalist, has studied insects in the field and closet, and describes what she has seen in a clear and admirable manner. The first and best lesson in the study of insects is the rearing of a butterfly from the egg; one learns more of entomology in this than by any other method. This book will, we feel sure, induce boys and, we hope, girls to gather caterpillars and rear butterflies just for the fun of the thing, while unconsciously they will be learning valuable lessons in observing natural objects. We have no fault to find with the illustrations, which are beautiful, and generally, when original, accurately, as well as artistically drawn, while those which are copied from the best entomological artists, are faithfully done; some, however, are evidently electrotypes from Harris, Riley, etc. We notice an error on page 11. The spinneret, in caterpillars, is situated on the *under* not the *upper* lip, the silk glands passing into the floor of the mouth and opening through the labium. We heartily endorse the advice to those beginning the study of insects that "we should not begin with statistics—studying how many thousands of moths and butterflies there are supposed to be, or how many species of insects have been classified and named. Take 'one to begin,' as children say, and study it thoroughly."

GRABER'S INSECTS.<sup>2</sup>—We have already drawn attention to the first two parts of this admirable work, and the commendations then bestowed upon it will apply to the present part. The biology of insects is concluded by chapters relating to the reproductive habits of insects, parthenogenesis and certain anomalous modes of reproduction, and to their powers of destruction. The author evidently belongs to the German ultra-Darwinian materialistic school, and claims, to use his own words, that: "It is the grand, free idea of the present age, which acknowledges the existence outside of and above nature of no power *and in general no being*, that all existing, all physical and psychical phenomena may be explained by the active causes in nature, and that the individual is not necessary for the preservation and harmonious develop-

<sup>1</sup>*Insect Lives, or Born in Prison.* By JULIA P. BALLARD. Cincinnati, Robert Clarke & Co., 1879. Sq. 12mo, pp. 97. \$1.00.

<sup>2</sup>*Die Naturkräfte.* Eine naturwissenschaftliche Volksbibliothek. XXII Band, 2 Hälfte. Die Insekten. Von Dr. VITUS GRABER. II Theil, 2 Hälfte: Vergleichendes Lebens und Entwicklungsgeschichte der Insekten. Mit 127 original holzschnitten. München, Druck und Verlag von R. Oldenbourg. 1879. 3 marks.